

LINCOLN CITY, IND

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# Indiana

## Cities & Towns

### Lincoln City

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## *Home Village of Lincoln's Boyhood Ignores Birthday*

**Grave of Emancipator's  
Mother Receives No  
Flowers.**

1927  
ROCKPORT, IND., Feb. 12. — (I.N.S.)—Lincoln's birthday anniversary today will pass almost unnoticed in Spencer county, the great emancipator's boyhood home. Lincoln lived at Lincoln City, seventeen miles north of here from the age of 7 to 21 years. His mother died there in 1818 and lies buried in what is known as the Nancy Hanks Lincoln park there.

The only celebration in Spencer county will be held in this city at the Trinity Lutheran church tonight. A pageant will be presented depicting that part of Lincoln's life spent in this county. The pageant will be given by the church and the County Historical society and twelve persons will take part in it.

Mrs. Mina Cook, 35, a descendant of a pioneer Spencer county family, will play the part of Mrs. Nancy Hanks Lincoln. A ruddy cheeked 7-year-old farm boy will play the part of the youthful Lincoln as he was when he moved to this county with his parents about 1815. An 18-year-old farm lad will depict Lincoln at the age when he moved away.

The Rev. Rufus, pastor of the church, will deliver Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Mr. Rings and Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann wrote the pageant.

There will be no program in the park at Lincoln City, where Mrs. Lincoln's grave is, and where the state of Indiana is planning to erect a national shrine. Mose Spurlock, custodian of the park, said he knew of no preparations for any observance of the day at the park.



BY GEOR. WILSON-C.E. — No. 1172.-JASPER, IND.-1929

[illegible]



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# ORIGINAL LANDOWNERS SURROUNDING LINCOLN CITY, IOWA

BY GEORGE WILSON C.E. - 1912 - 44 PAGES - 170-1928

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# Assignment: Indiana

CC: M. NEELY, FILE

## Illinois neighbor stakes claim as 'Land of Lincoln'

By Michael Tackett  
Chicago Tribune

LINCOLN CITY, Ind.—This is the other "Land of Lincoln." This is where Abe Lincoln lived before he was Abraham Lincoln, where he learned how to read and split rails and where he first studied law. This is where he spent, as the locals boast, "his formative years."

Or, in the cryptic but telling words he supposedly used to describe them, "There I grew up."

Lincoln's family moved to the densely wooded, sloping hills of southern Indiana in December, 1816, the same month that Indiana became a state. He lived there until he was 21, when his father decided to move the family to Illinois.

Because of the 16th president's mythic stature, it seems that any state that can lay a claim to his legacy has done so, including Kentucky, where he was born. While Illinois has clear bragging rights in the three-state tussle, Indiana has gone the others one better.

Last week the Hoosier state formally dedicated the Lincoln State Amphitheatre, a \$3.5 million, 1,514-seat roofed structure set among 100-foot tall trees and nature trails in Lincoln State Park, which is across the road from the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, not far from the Lincoln Boyhood Trail, but a good 6 miles from the Lincoln Motel.

The amphitheatre is the product of a 10-year plan by the Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association to preserve Lincoln's years in the state through an outdoor drama, entitled "Young Abe Lincoln."

On June 18, at a \$25-a-ticket "world premiere," people came by car, bus and even limousine, some dressed in Sunday finery, others in jeans. They talked about



how they couldn't believe that something this magnificent had been built in this part of southern Indiana, an area not known for its affinity for culture. Others traded small talk about the illnesses of their children or the joy of being great-grandparents.

One man talked about a modern southern Indiana hero, Boston Celtics forward Larry Bird, from French Lick, Ind. One woman said, "Too bad Liberace is dead, he would probably perform here."

"It's hot to be a Hoosier right now," the master of ceremonies, David Gorton, boomed.

The drama is a whimsical, sometimes long-winded, look at Lincoln's early years. It portrays him as a young man who didn't like physical labor but was dutiful to his father's demands; as one who excelled in reading and spelling; and as one who was unfailing in his honesty, yet was given to pranks.

"We have to take away the reverence of the great man," said Ewel Cornett, the director. "We've got to tear that down. We have to show that when he was young, he wasn't great, that he was like every man, and in every man there is greatness."

Nonetheless, in the play Lincoln always is the one who does the right and noble thing.

He has a strong relationship with his mother, Nancy Hanks, and his sister, Sarah, both of whom nurtured young Abe's appetite for reading and learning. As he grew older, the drama details his life as a clerk at Gentry's store, where he would give speeches, tell jokes and at one point call a bully's bluff.

The play also dramatizes a flatboat trip that Lincoln took to New Orleans and shows the profound impact that the cruelty of slavery had on him at a young age.

All this puts even more pressure on the actors who are trying to live up to the audience's expectations of one of the nation's greatest heroes.

"We have to forget that this guy was president," said Steve Griffith, 26, a gangly 6-foot-5 man who has Lincolnesque features but had to dye his blond hair brown for the part of Abe from age 17 through 21.

"We can take some license and show him as a normal person. We are depicting him with a sense of humor and reality. You see those photos and stuff and you have this god-like image.

"I have to humble myself to approach this character," Griffith said.

A slightly easier role fell to Johnny Morbit, 27, who plays Lincoln from age 7 through 16, a time in Lincoln's life about which little is known. "Nobody really knows about baby Abe," Morbit said. "You have this image and we try to make it come to life.

"I learned that at least he was a child like every other child, that he liked having fun and friends and that he had a wild imagination that led him to write poetry."

Cornett said he had to stick as close to history as possible because the area has more than its share of Lincoln scholars and historians who have no degrees.

Norm Hellmers, superintendent of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, said the play is close to factual. "People should not be bothered by the occasional liberty taken with events," Hellmers said. "The play is honest to the facts as we know them and attempts to convey the truth in a larger sense.

"In my own feeling, Abe Lincoln realized that he had enough intelligence and gifts to make something of his life other than to be a farmer in southern Indiana. He had that ambition and drive to be self-educated to the point where he could live by his brain.

"Part of his heart was always here, but when he left the farm life, he never looked back."



# Hoosier Abe

LL: M. NEELY, FILE

## Drama portrays Lincoln's 'formative years' in Indiana

By MICHAEL TACKETT

Of the Chicago Tribune

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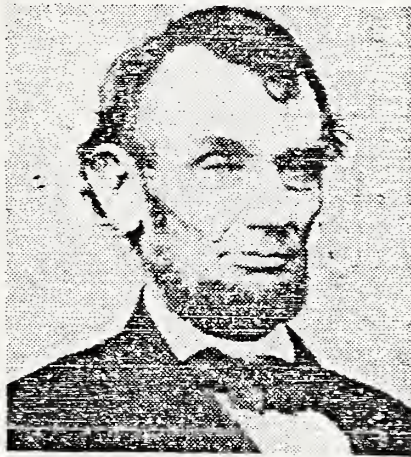
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Lincoln as president: Honored as a Hoosier

state through an outdoor drama, entitled "Young Abe Lincoln."

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> Lincoln Amphitheatre 2007 Concert Series All New This Year \*New  
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>4:00 to 8:00 P.M. Saturday, for Patrons Attending the Lincoln Amphitheatre  
>Concert Series. Ticket Prices Lowered, Kids 10 and under Free to all shows  
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>Dinner served during hours of 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Central Time. Due to  
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>

> Rail Splitter's concessions will be open during all concerts.  
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> Lincoln Amphitheatre - Lincoln City, Indiana  
>

> Purchasing tickets  
>

> a.. You may PURCHASE CONCERT AND OR MEAL TICKETS by calling  
>1-866-695-1346 or 812-544-3889 (local) for Information or  
><http://www.risingstarconcerts.com/ordertickets.htm>  
>

> b.. Tickets will be held at the Box Office and can be picked up  
>anytime after 4:00 P.M. the day of the concerts. ALL SEATS ARE GENERAL  
>SEATING UNLESS STATED Park entrance fee will be waived from 4:00 to 8:00  
>P.M. Saturday, for patrons Attending the Amphitheatre Concert Series  
>

> c.. All ticket prices are \$13.00 Per Person, Concert and Meal \$21.00  
>per person. From June 9 to September 1, 2007 (Except for June 2, 2007)  
>Which is \$21.00 for concert, Dinner and concert \$29.00.  
>

> d.. Campers \$9.00 per person with paid Receipt camping. \$17.00 Dinner  
>and show Per Person.  
>

> e.. Campers Discounts: Bring in your paid camping receipt to receive  
>discount (receipt good only day of concert. Can not be for past or future  
>camping. no discount on meals)  
>

> f.. Ages 10 and under are FREE with the purchase of adult ticket,  
>unless stated on Flyers, Advertisements, or website  
>

> g.. Rail Splitters Concessions will be open during all concerts!  
>

> h.. Ages 10 and under, Concert tickets are FREE with the purchase of  
>adult ticket, unless stated on Flyers, Advertisements, or website.  
>

> Meal's will be catered by Bill and Dave's Smokin Pit -Tell City,  
>Indiana.  
>

> i.. Prices are \$8.00 per meal which include 1 MEAT AND TWO SIDE  
>DISHES, INCLUDES ROLL & DRINK  
>

> j.. You will get to choose from this menu  
>

> k.. Pulled Pork on Bun (No Roll), Fried Chicken, (White is Breast &  
>Wing), (Dark is Leg & Thigh) Ham,  
>

> l.. (Pick from two sides) Corn, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Potato  
>Salad, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Cole Slaw, Bottled Water, soft drink or  
>coffee included, (Tips not included)  
>

> m.. \*MEALS MUST BE ORDERED BY NOON ON FRIDAY'S BEFORE CONCERT. EITHER  
>BY EMAIL [tickets@risingstarconcerts.com](mailto:tickets@risingstarconcerts.com) OR PHONE IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE  
>YOU. LARGE ORDERS OF CHICKEN MUST BE ORDERED BY WEDNESDAY BEFORE SHOW. You  
>may reserve your meal by calling (812)544-3889 or toll free 866-695-1346.

>This does not reserve a specific table. We will do our best to accommodate  
>you on a first come, first serve basis. Due to Limited seating this is the  
>fairest method to please as many people as possible.

>

> n.. Concert Season 2007 Box Office

> o.. Amphitheatre Concert Series Doors open at 6:30 P. M. Show time is

>7:30 P. M

> a.. June 2nd to September 1st Saturday Nights Only. All show

>schedules are subject to last minute changes.

> 1.. June 2, 2007 AT THE HOP Hear all your favorite songs from the 50s,

>60s, and 70s as you remember them. Put on your Bobbie Sox girls...cause you

>will want to dance. Music, Dance, Skits, and Classic Cars. Come on.. let's

>go to the HOP! Red Hat Ladies Night Presented by the Pine Knob Players

> 2.. June 9, 2007 Paul Penny's Tribute to Roy Orbison and Friends

>including top hits such as "Running Scared" "Crying", "In Dreams", "It's  
>Over" , "Candy Man" " Oh Pretty Woman" & More.

> 3.. June 16, 2007 Temple Aires Big Band Sound, Folks are welcome to  
>get up and Dance on the stage

> 4.. June 23, 2007 The Marlinaires Pop, Country Rock, R & B, Classics  
>of Yesterday and today.

> 5.. June 30, 2007 The Rigbys Creating the Music of the Beatles Not  
>Impersonators, Tribute to the Beatles

> 6.. July 7, 2007 Celebration Singers Music of Hope, Joy Reassurance,  
>Gospel, Celtic & More

> 7.. July 14, 2007 Rocking Terry Lee INTERNATIONAL ROCKABILLY SENSATION

>\*U.K. - EUROPE- USA\* 50's Rock 'N' Roll with an Original Killer Style  
>Music!

> 8.. July 21, 2007 Grafted Contemporary Christian band with musical  
>influences that include Southern Gospel, Country, Blues, Jazz, and Rock.

> 9.. July 28, 2007 Black Velvet R & B, Variety, Classic, Country,  
>Oldies Etc

> 10.. August 4, 2007 Tribute to the Everly Brother's the Including  
>songs such as "Bye Bye Love", "Wake Up Little Susie,", "All I Have To Do Is

>Dream", "Bird Dog" and more!

> 11.. August 11, 2007 Hillbilly Hoedown Presented By God's Player's  
>Directed By Jean Mattingly, Musical, Comedy & skits

> 12.. August 18, 2007 Tribute to Bill Haley's Comets with 3 Original  
>Comets 50's, Old Time Rock & Roll and More

> 13.. August 25, 2007 Tribute to Ricky Nelson & two Elvis's Tribute to  
>Ricky Nelson & 50's and 60's Elvis with Duane Fortune playing with Rocking  
>Terry Lee Band

> 14.. September 1, 2007 Copperhead Creek Classic Rock ~ Country and Pop  
>

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> [www.risingstarconcerts.com](http://www.risingstarconcerts.com) (Lincoln Amphitheatre)





